



ARRM

Section #1: About Yourself

Your Name: Jason Weirmon
District you are running in: 9

Question #1: Please provide a short background about yourself.

I am a ten year MN citizen and state gov. employee.
I also teach at a community college & state university.
I have worked in natural resources for 20 years. I have
also lived in several different states and seen how local
and state governing structures

Question #2: What do you hope to accomplish by running for office? What will your main priorities be at the Capitol if you are elected?

I hope to rebalance the governing partnership between state &
local gov. I want to see the state provide basic standards and
allow local governments the flexibility (and funding) to meet
our basic responsibilities

Question #3: What experience or connections, if any, do you have to the disability community?

Limited. I have been served by them in the workforce in my
community. I have also worked with college students with
learning disabilities and mental health struggles.

Section #2: Our Workforce Crisis

Question #1: Our industry is facing a workforce crisis. There are simply not enough people to provide the direct care needed for people with disabilities to lead independent lives. Given that the overwhelming majority of funding for disability services comes from the government, and low wages are a driving force behind high rates of staff turnover, what ideas would you offer for helping to create a livable wage for our direct support professionals and caregivers?

Identify these workers as a critical resource and
require a base wage if using state dollars. Encourage the
unionization of these workers so they can better collectively
bargain

Question #2: As technology continues to become a bigger part of everyone's lives, there are numerous products that can be used by individuals with disabilities which offer them increased independence, including things as simple as apps on cell phones and tablets. Some technology can supplement staff while others can substitute for staff. Would you support the use of public dollars to increase the availability and use of technology?

Yes and also invest in the development of new
technology.

Section #3: The Sustainability of our System

Question #1: Minnesota's Olmstead Plan includes a broad series of key activities our state must accomplish to ensure people with disabilities are living, learning, working and enjoying life in the most integrated setting appropriate for their needs. In 2015, a set of very ambitious goals and benchmarks were finalized and approved by the Minnesota courts to help ensure that the intent of the Olmstead Plan is realized. What is your role as a legislator to oversee and ensure that those goals are met?

Provide adequate funding. Include language in grants and laws requiring the consideration of the court ruling. Develop state agency requirements to follow court ruling and adopt benchmark standards.

Question #2: Affordable housing is an issue for many people in Minnesota. A cornerstone of Minnesota's Olmstead Plan is the opportunity for individuals with disabilities to live as independently as they choose. As a legislator how would you strategically expand availability of affordable housing with accessibility features for Minnesotans with disabilities?

This is a big issue in rural MN. I would encourage to provide funding to retrofit houses with the proper universal accessibility features.

Question #3: Our industry has seen an influx of "unfunded mandates" - items that cost providers additional money without subsequent compensation, such as the increase in minimum wage, the Affordable Care Act, increased regulatory fees and the new Department of Labor Overtime Rule to name a few. When the government adds a new mandate what is its responsibility in supporting government funded businesses to pay for those mandates?

Government should develop a predicted cost and then fund at this cost.